

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 255, I was unavoidably detained, and I missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey) having assumed the chair, Mr. THORNBERRY, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4568) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HONORING JUNETEENTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Juneteenth, a day of celebration for all Americans. Juneteenth or June 19, 1865, marks the day that Major General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas to inform slaves that the Civil War was over and they were now free men and women.

Juneteenth is a day honoring President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. It was a Juneteenth that Lincoln's proclamation was finally enforced nationwide, 2½ years after he issued the decree. President Lincoln should be honored for his tremendous efforts on freeing all of the slaves, and we must recognize this important day in our Nation's history.

Since then, Juneteenth has been a day of celebration largely in the African American culture and especially for African Americans in Texas. Many communities celebrated in churches or in far off rural areas. But as times have changed and more African Americans began to own land and to experience freedom, sites were dedicated specifically for celebrations and more people began to participate.

In 1872, Reverend Jack Yates raised \$1,000 to purchase a park in Houston named Emancipation Park in honor of the Juneteenth holiday. With public land acquisitions such as this, more Americans have become aware of this event and began to celebrate its heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to commend President Abraham Lincoln. Not only was President Lincoln a great Republican abolitionist in history, he was a great leader from my home State of Illinois. His vision and dream of freeing slaves was finally a reality on June 19th, 1865, the day we now know as Juneteenth. His efforts freed thousands, hundreds of thousands of slaves across our Nation.

Another person that I must note is Owen Lovejoy from Princeton, Illinois. Lovejoy is a former Republican Congressman from Bureau County and was a pioneer in the abolitionist movement in Congress. In 1863, he introduced the Emancipation Proclamation in legislative form to the Congress. With the support and leadership of President Lincoln, it was passed and became Public Law. He is yet another example of a fighter for freedom and liberty. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to serve the 11th District of Illinois, the home of former Congressman Owen Lovejoy.

Today, Juneteenth is not only celebrated by Americans, but by people all over the world. More and more communities continue to coordinate celebrations, whether it is in the workplace, school, or at home.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage this Congress to mark Juneteenth as the day in history that forever changed the lives of thousands of Americans in 1865 and continues to have an impact on current future generations.

Mr. Speaker, as this celebration of heritage continues to grow, I would like to honor this day of celebration we know as Juneteenth, June 19, 1865, and encourage all Americans to observe this day of emancipation and strength.

SMART SECURITY AND BUSH ADMINISTRATION CONDONING OF TORTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, American troops are being court-martialed daily for their role in the heinous crimes that took place in Abu Ghraib, the prison in Iraq. For sure, their role in these incidents is embarrassing and shameful.

But if we are searching for the true culprits for these abuses, which include the sexual assault, forced sodomy, and death of Iraqi prisoners, we need look no further than August 1, 2002.

That is the day the Justice Department advised the White House in a memo to Alberto Gonzalez, President Bush's top counsel, that torturing al Qaeda terrorists in captivity "may be

justified." The memo also stated that "necessity and self-defense could provide justifications that would eliminate any criminal liability" for the use of torture.

It is not just the physical abuses that took place in Iraqi prisons that is appalling. The thing that is just as appalling is that legal abuses took place here at home too within our own government, when high-ranking officials in the Department of Defense and the Department of Justice affirmed the use of torture as a war tactic.

The White House and the Pentagon approval of torture is not only shameful, it also flies in the face of America's human rights standards. And what happened to the United States setting a positive example for the rest of the world?

That is not what Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld would have us believe. Rumsfeld wants the American public to think that the use of torture was isolated to Abu Ghraib; that by merely court-martialing those directly responsible for inflicting the abuse who he called "a few bad apples," well, now we have gotten to the bottom of it.

But the fact that torture occurred in separate places and under the command of different interrogators leads many to believe that a more systematic failure took place. And I believe that the discovery of the Justice Department's appalling sanctioning of torture confirms that belief.

Furthermore, an investigation by the New Yorker Magazine detailed a Pentagon operation that encouraged the physical coercion, otherwise known as torture, of Iraqi prisoners in an attempt to produce intelligence about the post-war insurgency in Iraq.

This information was also substantiated by Newsweek Magazine, and do not forget about the memo that called the use of torture "justified." What more evidence does one need to understand that this administration condoned and approved the use of torture?

There is an eerie pattern at work here. First Guantanamo Bay, then Abu Ghraib. Now we are learning that prisoners in Afghanistan have been subjected to torture by American soldiers. It is becoming very clear that the really "bad apples" are at the top of the barrel. They are, in fact, in the White House.

There has to be a better way, Mr. Speaker, a more intelligent way, a way rooted in the values that we hold dear in the United States, and there is. I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, legislation to create smart security for the 21st century. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral, American Response to Terrorism.

SMART treats war as an absolute last resort. It fights terrorism with stronger intelligence and multilateral partnerships. It controls the spread of weapons of mass destruction with a renewed commitment to nonproliferation; and it aggressively invests in the development of impoverished nations,